ì A INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY OF A STATE OF A STA 2 3 04-CR-00429-REO 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 8 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. NO. 10 Plaintiff. 11 PLEA AGREEMENT V. 12 PAUL D. BEKINS. 13 Defendant. 14

The United States of America, by and through Mark N. Bartlett, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, and Robert Westinghouse and Annette L. Hayes, Assistant United States Attorneys for said District, and Defendant, PAUL D. BEKINS, and his attorneys, Dan R. Dubitzky and Darrell D. Hallett, enter into the following Plea Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c):

- 1. <u>Waiver of Indictment</u>. Defendant, having been advised of the right to be charged by Indictment, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to a charge brought by the United States Attorney in an Information.
- The Charge. Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to filing a materially false United States income tax return, as charged in Count One of the Information, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1). By entering this plea of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all objections to the form of the charging document.
 - 3. The Penalties. Defendant understands and acknowledges that the statutory

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1	penalties for the offense of filing a materially false United States income tax return are as
2	follows: imprisonment for up to three (3) years, a fine of up to \$250,000, a period of
3	supervision following release from prison of up to one (1) year, a one hundred dollar
4	(\$100) penalty assessment, and the costs of prosecution. If Defendant receives a sentence
5	of probation, the probationary period could be up to five (5) years. Defendant agrees that
6	the penalty assessment shall be paid at or before the time of sentencing.
7	4. Elements of the Offense. The elements of the offense of filing a materially
8	false United States income tax return, as charged in Count One of the Information, arc as
9	follows:
10	a. First, the defendant made and signed a tax return that he knew
11	contained false information as to a material matter;
12	b. Second, the return contained a written declaration that it was being
13	signed subject to the penalties of perjury; and
14	c. Third, in filing the false tax return, the defendant acted willfully.
15	5. Rights Waived by Pleading Guilty. Defendant understands that, by pleading
16	guilty, he knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:
17	a. The right to plead not guilty, and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
18	b. The right to a speedy and public trial before a jury of Defendant's
19	pccrs;
20	c. The right to the effective assistance of counsel at trial, including, if
21	Defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for
22	Defendant;
23	d. The right to be presumed innocent until guilt has been established at
24	trial, beyond a reasonable doubt;
25	e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against Defendant
26	at trial;
27	f. The right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on Defendant's
28	behalf at trial;

I ||offense and expressly waives any right to have these facts determined by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. 2 Introduction 3 At all times material to this Plea Agreement: a. 4 i. PAUL D. BEKINS was a resident of Scattle, Washington, and 5 was the President/Treasurer/Chief Executive Officer and majority shareholder of Bekins Moving and Storage Inc. (hereinafter "Bekins Moving and Storage"), a Washington 8 corporation. PAUL D. BEKINS also was the Treasurer and the sole shareholder (with his wife) of Bekius Resources, Ltd. (hereinafter "Bekius"), a Washington corporation. 9 ii. Tower Organization of Worldwide Executive Resources 10 (hereinafter "Tower"), was incorporated in the Turks and Caicos Islands, British West 11 Indies, and operated primarily by Paul D. Harris and Lester R. Retherford. Tower created International Business Corporations (hereinafter "IBCs"), that did not have any 13 independent economic reality or represent ongoing businesses, but in whose names bank accounts and securities trading accounts were opened in the United States, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and elsewhere. Tower thereafter invited individuals, including PAUL D. BEKINS, to join the organization for a fee of \$50,000. Tower members were then allowed 17 to attend Tower seminars and utilize the IBCs to evade paying income taxes. In particular, 18 PAUL D. BEKINS utilized schemes -- as set forth in this Plea Agreement -- that were 19 devised by Paul D. Harris, Lester R. Retherford, and Robert Bedford to send millions of 20 dollars of unreported income through Tower and its related entities to PAUL D. BEKINS' 21 domestic and offshore bank accounts. 22 iii. ITM Management (hereinafter "ITM") was an IBC 23 incorporated in the Bahamas. ITM was established by Tower to assist Tower members in

evading federal income taxes.

Five Flags Global Services (hereinafter "Five Flags") was an IBC incorporated in the Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Five Flags was established by Tower to assist Tower members in evading federal income taxes.

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\$2,652,617 during 1998, and \$1,079,224 during 1999, which amounts were not reported as

1	\$6,500,000 sale to be deposited to the Bekins Moving and Storage bank account while
2	directing that \$2,448,739.73 be diverted to a Starboard Reef account owned by Russell J.
3	Brown on or about June 2, 1998.
4	g. On June 12, 1998, at the request of PAUL D. BEKINS, Russell J.
5	Brown directed the transfer of \$2,446,239.73 from his Starboard Reef account to a Pearl
6	Rim bank account controlled by PAUL D. BEKINS.
7	h. On various dates in 1998, PAUL D. BEKINS caused funds from his
8	Pearl Rim bank account to be transferred to a Five Flags account as follows:
9	i. June 16, 1998 - \$925,000
10	ii. July 14, 1998 - \$725,000 iii. September 25, 1998 - \$200,000 iv. December 7, 1998 - \$450,000
11	i. On various dates in 1998, PAUL D. BEKINS caused funds to be
12	transferred from the Five Flags account to PAUL D. BEKINS for his personal use, and to
13	Bekins Moving and Storage, which transfers were lictitiously characterized as loans, as
14	follows:
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16 17	ii. July 30, 1998 - \$895,000 "loan" to PAUL D. BEKINS iii. July 30, 1998 - \$300,000 "loan" to Bekins Moving and Storage iii. July 31, 1998 - \$405,000 "loan" to PAUL D. BEKINS iv. October 8, 1998 - \$250,000 "loan" to PAUL D. BEKINS
18	j. As a result, PAUL D. BEKINS under reported his taxable income by
19	\$2,448,739.73 for the tax year 1998.
20	Sale of the Tacoma Warehouse
21	k. From on or about December 1998, through on or about
22	March 1999, PAUL D. BEKINS caused \$733,750 to be transferred from his Pearl Rim
23	bank account through a Five Flags bank account to a Caviada bank account owned by
24	Russell J. Brown.
25	On or about December 1998, PAUL D. BEKINS and Russell J.
26	Brown agreed that Caviada would use the above amount, as well as additional funds
27	provided by PAUL D. BEKINS, to "purchase" a warehouse in Tacoma, Washington
28	(hereinafter "the Tacoma warehouse"), owned and operated by Bekins Moving and

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m. On or about December 1998, pursuant to his agreement with PAUL D. BEKINS, Russell J. Brown caused Caviada to "purchase" the Tacoma warehouse from Bekins Moving and Storage with funds provided by PAUL D. BEKINS.

- n. After the sale, PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekins Moving and Storage to lease the Tacoma warchouse from Caviada, PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekins Moving and Storage to pay Caviada \$92,400 in rental expenses for 1999.
- o. Upon receipt of the rental payments, Russell J. Brown caused Caviada to transfer nearly all of the monies to a Five Flags account. PAUL D. BEKINS caused Five Flags to further transfer the monies to various Pearl Rim bank accounts in New Jersey, Gibraltar, and Mexico.
- p. Thus, PAUL D. BEKINS under reported his taxable income by \$92,400 for the tax year 1999.

The Sale of the Everett Warehouse

- q. In February 1999, PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekins Moving and Storage to sell a warehouse in Everett, Washington (hereinafter "the Everett warehouse"), owned and operated by Bekins Moving and Storage to an otherwise unrelated party for \$1,375,000.
- r. PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekins Moving and Storage to enter into an option agreement with Starboard Reef that purported to give Russell J. Brown the right to purchase the Everett warehouse at a set price, and provided that if Bekins Moving and Storage did not do so, it would pay a pre-defined fee to Russell J. Brown. Again, PAUL D. BEKINS knew that Russell J. Brown had no intention of purchasing and owning the Everett warehouse. Instead, PAUL D. BEKINS used the option agreement as a vehicle to evade federal income taxes on approximately \$959,200. In particular, the option agreement created the impression that Bekins Moving and Storage paid Russell J. Brown \$959,200 because it failed to sell the business to him at the agreed price, when in fact, Brown was simply using the agreement to funnel these funds through Starboard Reef to

In 1998, PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekins Moving and Storage to

pay ITM \$35,750 in management fees. PAUL D. BEKINS caused Bekius to pay ITM

1	\$149,380.86 and \$3,200 in management fees for the tax years 1998 and 1999, respectively.
2	y. PAUL D. BEKINS knew the majority of the ITM management fee
3	payments were deposited, for his benefit, to the Pearl Rim bank account in the Turks and
4	Caicos Islands, British West Indies.
5	z. As a result, PAUL D. BEKINS understated his taxable income by
6	\$183,380.86 for the tax year 1998. In addition, Bekius overstated its business expense
7	deductions by \$149,380.86 and \$3,200 for cach of the tax years 1998 and 1999,
8	respectively.
9	Concealment of Unreported Income
10	aa. PAUL D. BEKINS repatriated unreported income from Pearl Rim to
11	himself using a Five Flags bank account.
12	bb. In an attempt to conceal the repatriation of the unreported income,
13	PAUL D. BEKINS disguised the funds from Five Flags as loan proceeds.
14	cc. In 1998, PAUL D. BEKINS repatriated a total of \$1,880,000:
15	\$300,000 to the Bekins Moving and Storage bank account at Key Bank, and \$1,580,000 to
16	himself. PAUL D. BEKINS caused Five Flags to transfer \$1,580,000 to his personal bank
17	account at Cascade Bank.
18	dd. In an attempt to legitimize these loans, PAUL D. BEKINS caused
19	Bekins Moving and Storage to make quarterly interest-only payments to Five Flags.
20	Bekins Moving and Storage paid \$18,000 a year in interest expenses to Five Flags in 1999.
21	ce. PAUL D. BEKINS also made quarterly interest-only payments to
22	Five Flags. PAUL D. Bekins paid \$96,150 in interest expenses to Five Flags in 1999.
23	ff. PAUL D. BEKINS caused Five Flags to transfer the monies
24	representing the interest expense payments to the Pearl Rim bank accounts at UBS
25	PaincWeber in New Jersey, the Jyske bank in Gibraltar, and a bank in Mexico.
26	gg. As a result, PAUL D. BEKINS under reported his taxable income by
27	\$18,000 for the tax year 1999, and overstated the interest expense deduction by \$59,519
28	for 1999.

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hh, PAUL D. BEKINS willfully failed to report the interest and dividend income earned in the Pearl Rim bank account at UBS PaineWebber in New Jersey for the tax years 1998 and 1999.

- ii. As a result, PAUL D. BEKINS under reported \$18,695.03 and \$9,344.35 in interest income for 1998 and 1999, respectively. PAUL D. BEKINS also under reported \$1,801.09 and \$279.45 in dividend income for 1998 and 1999, respectively.
- 9. Sentencing Factors. The parties agree and stipulate that the facts admitted by Defendant in the Statement of Facts in this Plea Agreement support the application of the following Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant expressly waives his right to have any of these sentencing factors charged in the Information or determined by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - a. A base offense level of nineteen (19), pursuant to USSG §§ 2T1.1(a)(1) and 2T4.1; and
 - b. A two (2) point enhancement to Defendant's base offense level because the offense involved sophisticated concealment pursuant to USSG § 2T1.1(b)(2).

10. Cooperation.

- a. Defendant shall cooperate completely and truthfully with law enforcement authorities in the investigation and prosecution of other individuals involved in criminal activity. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, complete and truthful statements to law enforcement officers, as well as complete and truthful testimony, if called as a witness before a grand jury, or at any state or federal trial, retrial, or other judicial proceedings. Defendant acknowledges that this obligation to cooperate shall continue after Defendant has entered a guilty plea and sentence has been imposed, no matter what sentence Defendant receives. Defendant's failure to do so may constitute a breach of this Plea Agreement.
 - b. Defendant understands that the United States will tolerate no

- c. The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington, in turn, agrees not to prosecute Defendant for any other offenses that Defendant may have committed in the Western District of Washington prior to the date of this Plea Agreement about which the Government presently possesses information, or about which Defendant provides information pursuant to this Plea Agreement to cooperate with the authorities.
- d. The parties agree that information provided by Defendant in connection with this Plea Agreement shall not be used to determine Defendant's sentence, except to the extent described in USSG § 1B1.8.
- e. In exchange for Defendant's cooperation, as described above, and conditioned upon Defendant's fulfillment of all the conditions of this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney agrees to consider filing a motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, or a memorandum recommending that the Court sentence Defendant to a sentence that reflects Defendant's cooperation. Defendant understands that in the event the United States Attorney files such a sentencing recommendation, that recommendation will be based on consideration of factors and provisions set forth in the United States Sentencing Guidelines.
- f. Defendant agrees that his sentencing date may be delayed based on the United States' need for his continued cooperation, and agrees not to object to any continuances of his sentencing date sought by the United States.
- 11. Acceptance of Responsibility. The United States acknowledges that

 Defendant has assisted the United States by timely notifying the authorities of his intention to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and

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- Post Plea Conduct. Defendant understands that the terms of this Plea 12. Agreement apply only to conduct that occurred prior to the execution of this Agreement. If, after the date of this Agreement, Defendant should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that is in violation of his conditions of release (examples of which include, but are not limited to: obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services Officer, Probation Officer or Court), the United States is free under this Agreement to seek a sentence that takes such conduct into consideration. Such a sentence could include, to the extent the United States Sentencing Guidelines are applicable, a sentencing enhancement or upward departure.
- Voluntariness of Plea. Defendant acknowledges that he has entered into this 13. Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily, and that no threats or promises, other than the promises contained in this Plea Agreement, were made to induce Defendant to enter this plea of guilty.
- Breach and Waiver. Defendant understands and agrees that if Defendant 14. breaches the Plea Agreement, Defendant may be prosecuted and sentenced for all of the offenses Defendant may have committed. Defendant agrees that if Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney reserves the right to take whatever steps are necessary to nullify the Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea Agreement and/or to set aside the conviction and sentence. Defendant also agrees that if he is in breach of this Plea Agreement, Defendant is deemed to have waived objection to the reinstitution of any charges under the Information that may not have been previously prosecuted. Defendant further agrees that if he is in breach of this Plea

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||Agreement, Defendant also is deemed to have waived objection to the filing of any additional charges against him.

- 15. Statute of Limitations. In the event that this Plea Agreement is not accepted by the Court for any reason, or Defendant has breached any of the terms of this Plea Agreement, the statute of limitations shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of the Plea Agreement to: (1) 30 days following the date of non-acceptance of the Plea Agreement by the Court; or (2) 30 days following the date on which a breach of the Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's Office.
- 16. Sentencing Guidelines - Tax Loss. The United States and Defendant stipulate and agree that the correct amount of tax loss for purposes of sentencing is more than nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000), but less than one and one-half million dollars (\$1,500,000), and Defendant agrees that he expressly waives any right to have this stipulated tax loss determined by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not preclude the Internal Revenue Service from assessing and determining any additional civil tax, penalties, and for interest that may be owed by Defendant. In addition, Defendant understands that he is required to pay costs of prosecution.
- 17. Tax Liabilities. Defendant admits that he is liable for the fraud penalty imposed by Title 26, United States Code, Section 6663 for tax years 1998 and 1999, for his willful failure to report all of his taxable income on his 1998 and 1999 federal income tax returns. Defendant further agrees to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in resolving his civil tax liabilities and any civil tax liabilities of Bekins Moving and Storage, and Bekius.
- 18. Completeness of Plea Agreement. The United States and Defendant acknowledge that these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties. This Plea Agreement only binds the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington and the Department of Justice Tax Division. It does not bind any

l	other United States Attorney's Office or any other office or agency of the United States, or
2	any state or local prosecutor.
3	DATED this 30th ay of September, 2004.
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6	PAUL D. BEKINS Defendant
7	Q P Q
8	DANR, DUBITZKY
9	Attorney for Defendant
10	O waste a A Domich
11	Quarell D. Hallett ly AMMal
12	Attorney for Defendant
13	M000
14	Get Det
15	FLOYD G. SHORT Assistant United States Attorney
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17	- Loughouse
18	ROBERT WESTINGLIOUSE Assistant United States Attorney
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20	/ MMD / Any in
21	ANNATURAL HAVES Assistant United States Attorney
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